

### **Remarks**

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed on March 31, 2004. Claim 31 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 30, 32, 33, and 35 have been amended, and claim 40 has been added. Support for the amendments to claim 30 and new claim 40 can be found, for example, at page 11, lines 12-14 and Table 3 of the present application. Claims 30 and 32-40 remain pending in the application, with claim 30 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration and allowance are requested in view of the following remarks.

#### **I. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 30-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the rejection states that the recitation "greater than 0" in claim 30 does not have support. This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 30 recites that the compression molding composition includes inorganic fiber in the range of greater than 0 to less than or equal to about 25 % by weight. The recitation "greater than 0" of inorganic fiber is supported throughout the specification, in that each embodiment of compression molding composition disclosed in the specification includes at least some inorganic fiber.

For at least this reason, reconsideration and allowance of claim 30, as well as claims 32-39 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

#### **II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103**

##### **A. Rejections Based on Rancoulle**

Claims 30-32 and 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Rancoulle, U.S. Patent No. 4,951,852. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded.

Claim 30 recites an inorganic binder in the range of about 10 to 40 % by weight.

In contrast, Rancoulle discloses a composition having binders of 0-7% by weight. Rancoulle, abstract and column 2, line 8. The rejection states that the fused silica grains

disclosed by Rancoulle (see column 2, line 5) meet the recited binder of claim 30. This assertion is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

The typical softening point for fused silica is approximately 2885°F (or 1585°C). See the fused silica specification sheet attached at the Appendix hereto. The fused silica grains disclosed by Rancoulle could not act as a binder as recited in the compression molding composition of claim 30 because of the high softening temperature of the fused silica as compared to the much lower temperature range used in Applicants' compression molding process.

Rancoulle therefore does not disclose or suggest a binder in the range of about 10 to 40 % by weight, as recited by claim 30. For at least this reason, Rancoulle fails to anticipate or render claim 30 obvious. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 30, as well as claims 32 and 36-39 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

Further, claims 30-39 were rejected under section 103(a) as obvious over Rancoulle. Specifically, the rejection states that Rancoulle also teaches up to 7% by weight of an acrylic resin at column 3, lines 29 and 30. This rejection is respectfully traversed to the extent understood, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded.

Claim 33 recites that the additional additives include an organic polymer, and the organic polymer is in the range of 0.1 to 0.5 % by weight of the total composition. Claim 34, which depends from claim 33, recites that the organic polymer is an acrylic polymer.

Claims 33 and 34 both depend from claim 30. As previously noted, Rancoulle fails to anticipate or render claim 30 obvious. Therefore, claims 33 and 34 should be allowable for at least the same reasons as noted above for claim 30. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 30 and 32-39 are respectfully requested.

**B. Rejections Based on Andersen**

Claims 30-32 and 36-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Andersen et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,090,195. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded.

As previously noted, claim 30 recites an inorganic binder in the range of about 10 to 40 % by weight.

Andersen fails to disclose or suggest an inorganic binder. For at least this reason, reconsideration and allowance of claim 30, as well as claims 32 and 36-39 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

C. Rejection Based on Howorth

Claims 30-32 and 36-39 were rejected under section 103(a) as obvious over Howorth et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,736,109. This rejection is respectfully traversed, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded.

Claim 30 further recites that the inorganic binder is suspended in an aqueous solution.

Howorth discloses inorganic binders that are swellable. Howorth, column 5, lines 7-20. Howorth fails to disclose or suggest an inorganic binder that is added to the composition suspended in an aqueous solution, as recited by claim 30. For at least this reason, reconsideration and allowance of claim 30, as well as claims 32 and 36-39 that depend therefrom, are respectfully requested.

III. New Claims


New claim 40 further defines over the cited art. Consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

**IV. Conclusion**

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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## **APPENDIX**

Attached hereto is one specification sheet of two pages entitled "Fused Silica, UV-Grade Synthetic Quartzglass," by Präzisions Glas & Optik GmbH, <http://www.pgo-online.com/intl/katalog/fused-silica.html> (visited April 15, 2004).

## **APPENDIX**

Attached hereto is one specification sheet of two pages entitled "Fused Silica, UV-Grade Synthetic Quartzglass," by Präzisions Glas & Optik GmbH, <http://www.pgo-online.com/intl/katalog/fused-silica.html> (visited April 15, 2004).